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Date January 28, 2004

To Examiner Steve S. Paik

Of U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Fax 571-273-2404

From Ruthleen E. Uy

Subject **Copy of Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 filed on January 23, 2004**

Our Ref Q63877 Appln. No.: 09/899,817

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(including cover sheet)

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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
GROUP 2876
PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q63877

Yasuyuki MOCHIZUKI

Appln. No.: 09/899,817

Group Art Unit: 2876

Confirmation No.: 1110

Examiner: Steve S. Paik

Filed: July 9, 2001

For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS AND IMAGE FORMING METHOD

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

FILED

JAN 23 2004

MAIL STOP AF

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 23, 2003, please consider the remarks as submitted herewith on the accompanying pages.

REMARKS

This response, submitted in response to the Office Action dated September 23, 2003, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 are pending in the present application. The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 5-12 and 15-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki (USP 6,072,916) in view of Yamamoto (USP 5,936,709). Claims 13 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §